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ON PAGE 14

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Soviet Spies Flourish at U.N.

By JOHN D. LOFTON JR.

If President Carter were truly interested in playing hardball against the Soviets in retaliation for their invasion of Afghanistan, he would have moved swiftly and forcefully to throw hundreds of Soviet spies out of the United Nations, where they masquerade as diplomats. But this is not being done.

A recent edition of CBS's "60 Minutes" revealed the following:

All of the 14,350 employees who work for the U.N. Secretariat take an oath which states that they will exercise the functions entrusted to them as international civil servants and will not seek or accept illegal instructions regarding the performance of their duties from any government or other authority external to the United Nations. Arkady Shevchenko, a Soviet U.N. under secretary before he defected to the United States in April 1978, notes, however, that the Soviets who work for the U.N. Secretariat "especially pay no attention to that at all."

Shevchenko says that of the estimated 400 Soviets who work for the U.N. Secretariat, at least 300 are either officers of the Soviet secret police, the KGB, or officers of the Soviet GRU, the military intelligence. Shevchenko says of these Soviet spies:

"The more personnel they have, the more difficult the FBI task to follow

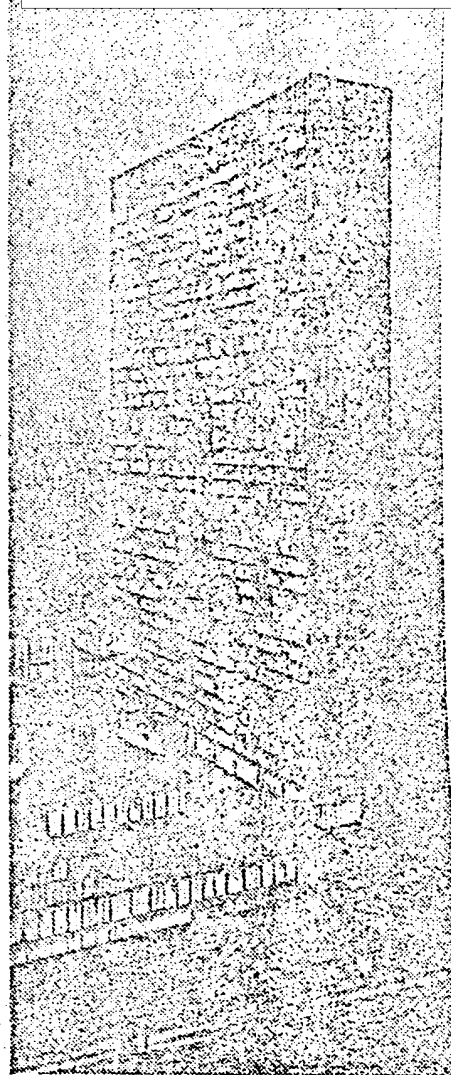
them. You have hundreds of these people wandering around in this country; that's why the Secretariat is so important to them. Because there they can have such a huge army of the KGB professionals or GRU professionals, that gives them advantages. They don't care about how much personnel. If they would be allowed, they would send thousands here. Unlike the Soviet diplomats, they could travel without prior identification in this country."

Shevchenko says these Soviet spies use highly sophisticated electronic equipment to intercept telecommunications and radio communications and to eavesdrop.

Former FBI counterintelligence officer Larry McWilliams, who for 12 years worked against the Soviets in New York City, backs up what Shevchenko says. When asked if the United Nations is "the single most important spy nest in the world today," he told CBS's Mike Wallace:

"No doubt about it, because of their basic freedom of travel. But, beyond that, they are in a marvelous position in New York, which contains everything: the head corporations of industry and finance. They're interested in economics, and there's no better place on earth to be. It's got so many of the headquarters of industrial empires that deal with sophisticated weapons, communications, all sorts. It's a marvelous place for a spy to be."

McWilliams says of the Soviet U.N. spy problem: "It's a horrendous task to try and counter."



In terms of its financing, the United States pays about 25 per cent of the U.N. Secretariat's total annual cost of \$149,735,604. When Wallace asked if this means that the U.S. taxpayer is paying a portion of the salary of the hundreds of Soviet spies at the United Nations in New York, Shevchenko

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